Facilitator: Dave Abelson (RFCLoG)

Introduction

Dave Abelson (RFCLoG) opened the meeting with discussion of the groundrules, purpose of the meeting and agenda review. He explained that the primary purpose of the focus group is discuss ER issues and pending decisions in a holistic manner.

Proposed Agenda:

- CERCLA Decision Making Criteria
- Regulatory Path Closure Document
- 903 Pad Characterization
- 903 Pad Discussion

Joe Legare (DOE) provided an introduction to the CERCLA presentation by reviewing the key policy issues. He stated that one key issue is "how much contamination will remain at Rocky Flats" (i.e., how clean is clean), and what steps should we take to assure that residual contamination does not pose a health risk in the future? He provided a brief introduction to the CERCLA presentation by asking the question why CERCLA?

➢ It's the law
➢ This cleanup must be justified in terms of CERCLA
➢ This is the process we use to strike balances and examine tradeoffs
➢ CERCLA is flexible but not wide open. Anything doesn't go

Joe also pointed out that agenda was ambitious and asked for feedback. Several members of the focus group indicated that 903 Pad should be a primary focus. Additionally, it was emphasized that it is important to adhere to the published agenda.

CERCLA Presentation:

Laura Brooks (KH) made a presentation on CERCLA decision-making criteria, which included an overview of the law and guidance. She explained the purpose of the CERCLA process is to implement remedies that eliminate, reduce, or control risks to human health and the environment. Laura reviewed the Nine Evaluation Criteria of CERCLA that must be followed when making cleanup decisions:

1. Overall protection of human health and the environment (T)
2. Compliance with ARARs (T)
3. Long-term effectiveness and permanence (B)
4. Reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume (B)
5. Short-term effectiveness (B)
6. Implementability (B)

7. Cost (B)
8. State Acceptance (M)
9. Community Acceptance (M)

The nine criteria fall into three groups: threshold criteria, primary balancing criteria, and modifying criteria. *Threshold criteria* are requirements that each alternative must meet in order to be eligible for selection. *Primary balancing criteria* are used to weigh major tradeoffs among alternatives. *Modifying criteria* considered as part of final remedy selection.

Alternatives are analyzed individually against each criterion and then compared against one another to determine their respective strengths and weaknesses and to identify the key tradeoffs that must be balanced for the site.

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Laura concluded her presentation by laying out some of the important CERCLA implementation issues that need to be resolved, including:

➢ Land use
➢ Remedial Action Objectives
➢ Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements
➢ Comprehensive Risk Assessment Methodology
➢ Final Site Characterization Requirements
➢ Institutional Controls
➢ Stewardship Costs/Impacts
➢ Water Quality

903 Pad Characterization
Norma Castaneda (DOE) provided an overview of the 903 Pad Charaterization project that was recently completed. She explained the purpose of the characterization project was to estimate the nature and extent of the contamination in the 903 Pad area. These findings will be used in designing the appropriate remedial plan for the 903 Pad. The presentation included a summary of the findings, including the estimate volumes of soils that exceed the current Tier I and Tier II soil action levels.

The group asked several questions regarding the details of the Characterization report. A question and answer sheet will be distributed at the next meeting and stakeholders are encouraged to review the entire Characterization report that is available in the Rocky Flats reading rooms.

903 Pad Remediation Issues

Lane Butler (KH) followed Norma's presentation by discussing the issues that must be evaluated in the remedial selection for the 903 Pad. He provided a list of the major issues, including:

➢ Protection of Human Health
➢ Protection of surface water
➢ Air Quality
➢ Erosion
➢ Ecological damage

➢ Worker exposure
➢ Transportation risk
➢ Cost

These issues are consistent with the CERCLA nine evaluation criteria discussed earlier; however, they are specific to the 903 Pad project.

Lane also presented several estimates of the impacts of various cleanup levels, including waste volume projections, acres impacted, cleanup costs, and truckloads. Several remedial alternatives were presented, including:

➢ Source Removal
➢ Do not remove contaminated soil, but explore other options including:
   ✓ No Action
   ✓ Stabilization
   ✓ Caps and covers
   ✓ Deep tilling
   ✓ Engineered barriers

Lane ended his presentation by stating that we must consider and balance all areas of cost and risk when making the clean-up decision for the 903 Pad.

Several stakeholder requested additional information on the issues Lane presented (e.g., protection of surface water, ecological damage etc.) and on the various remedial alternatives. It was agreed that DOE/KH would provide additional information on these subjects in preparation for additional discussion on 903 Pad issues during the August 2 meeting.

General comments on the meeting:
All parties agreed that the agenda contained too many discussion topics and was overly ambitious. At future meetings there will only be one or two major agenda items. In addition, several stakeholders requested that more time be set aside for general discussion; future agendas will reflect this input.

The next RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting will be held at the Broomfield City Hall on August 2, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. The group will discuss additional details of the 903 Pad project and review the overall syllabus for the focus group.